AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. to 19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) A method of producing a bacteriophage able to delay inactivation by an animal's host defense system, comprising genetically engineering a bacteriophage to express molecules on its surface coat that delay inactivation of the bacteriophage by an animal's host defense system, by fusing a gene for a surface protein with an oligonucleotide for a ~~complement~~ host defense-antagonizing peptide to create a fusion protein, such that said fusion protein is expressed on the surface coat of the bacteriophage.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein the bacteriophage is specific for bacteria selected from the group consisting of Mycobacteria, Staphylococci, Vibrio, Enterobacter, Enterococci, Escherichia, Haemophilus, Neisseria, Pseudomonas, Shigella, Serratia, Salmonella and Streptococci, and the bacteriophage can effectively lyse the bacteria.

23. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein the bacteria is selected from the group consisting of M. tuberculosis, M. avium-intracellulare and M. bovis.

24. to 30. (Canceled)

31. (New) A method of producing a bacteriophage able to delay clearance by a host innate immune system, comprising fusing a gene for a surface protein with an oligonucleotide for a peptide that antagonizes a component of the host innate immune system to create a fusion protein, such that said fusion protein is expressed on the surface coat of the bacteriophage.

32. (New) The method of Claim 31, wherein the peptide is a complement-antagonizing peptide.

33. (New) The method of Claim 32, wherein the peptide is LARSNL.

34. (New) A method of genetically engineering a bacteriophage by fusing a gene for a surface protein with an oligonucleotide for a peptide that antagonizes a component of a host innate immune system to create a fusion protein, such that said fusion protein is expressed on the surface coat of the bacteriophage, thereby allowing the genetically engineered bacteriophage to survive longer in an animal's body than a corresponding wild-type bacteriophage.

35. (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein the bacteriophage is specific for bacteria selected from the group consisting of Mycobacteria, Staphylococci, Vibrio, Enterobacter, Enterococci, Escherichia, Haemophilus, Neisseria, Pseudomonas, Shigella, Serratia, Salmonella and Streptococci, and the bacteriophage can effectively lyse the bacteria.

36. (New) The method according to claim 35, wherein the bacteria is selected from the group consisting of M. tuberculosis, M. avium-intracellulare and M. bovis.